

Rappite Community House No.2  
North Main, between Church St. and Granary St.  
New Harmony, Indiana.

IN  
HABS No. ~~24~~-5  
HABS  
IND.  
65-NEHAR

2-

PHOTOGRAPH  
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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Herbert W. Foltz, District Officer  
1035 Architects & Builders Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

COMMUNITY HOUSE #2  
NEW HARMONY, INDIANA

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This building was built in 1822 by the followers of George Rapp, the German, who, after living in Pennsylvania for a few years after his arrival in this country from Europe, established the community of Harmony in 1814. The two leading principles that the Rappites early put into practice were community of interests and the adherence to celibacy; and this building was originally designed and used as a community rooming house.

In 1824, Robert Owen of New Lanark, Scotland, bought the community of Harmony from the Rappites and named the settlement New Harmony. The building in 1826 housed the boarding school of Joseph Neef and Mme. Fretageot, which was sponsored by William McClure, a friend of science.

Joseph Neef, a disciple of Pestalozzi, introduced here the first trade school, night school, infant school and co-educational school in this country, and at one time had about one hundred students. The tuition, which was one hundred (\$100.00) dollars a year, included schooling, board, clothing and medical attention. When the system was installed, some of the partitions were removed and dormitories and teachers' rooms formed.

In 1840 Jane Dale Owen (Mrs. Mauntleroy) taught music, harp, piano, and languages here.

Later the building was used as a tavern where Judge Wattles served as host, also George Flower, the disappointed founder of the Illinois settlement, for whom it was called the Flower House.

From 1830 until recently it was owned by four generations of Fretageots, who used it for a store

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and living quarters, during which time the interior was remodeled considerably, and the front porch and sheds at side and rear annexed. In 1930 it was purchased by Miss Rachel Homer Fauntleroy, a charter member of "The Minerva." Miss Fauntleroy is maintaining it as a community building and museum. The D.A.P., G.A.R., Boy Scouts, and a local fraternity have headquarters in the building. A feature of the museum is an old Washington printing press, invented by Josiah Warren, in good operating condition.

The above information was obtained from booklets published at New Harmony, and data on the original plan was obtained from Miss Rachel Homer Fauntleroy and Charles Stater, both lifetime residents of New Harmony, the latter former publisher of the New Harmony Register.

(Signed)

Earl O. Warweg  
Squad Leader

(Approved)

Herbert A. Folz  
DISTRICT OFFICER

April 20, 1934

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